Remarks

Claims 108-127 are pending, and claims 108-127 stand rejected. Claims 108 and 118 are amended in this response. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request allowance of claims 108-127.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 108-127 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of U.S. Patent number 5,483,589 (Ishida) and U.S. Patent number 5,917,897 (Johnson). The Applicants submit that independent claims 108 and 118 are novel and non-obvious in view of Ishida, Johnson, and any combination thereof based on the following remarks.

(1) Claim 108 describes "a call processing control system coupled to the signaling processors and configured to receive call processing data and update the call processing tables in the signaling processors based on the call processing data." The Examiner states that Ishida does not teach updating call processing tables. The Applicants agree. The Examiner suggests that Johnson teaches updating call processing tables as described in claim 108. The Applicants disagree.

Johnson recites using bid information to choose some selected routes in a network. Johnson recites a Moderator that receives bids from Carriers on particular routes, and provides a list of costs per route for each Carrier. The Moderator then transfers the list to Subscribers. The Subscribers may adjust routing tables in a switch based on the information in the list to get "least cost routing". However, Johnson does not teach globally adjusting routing tables in multiple signaling processors in a network as described in claim 108. The Applicants have previously stated that call processing tables in switches were traditionally updated individually by having a highly-skilled technician reprogram the individual switch and update the call processing table. Johnson teaches nothing more than this. In Johnson, the Moderator provides a list to a Subscriber. The Subscriber may or may not update the routing table in the switch based on the list. The Moderator does not automatically update a routing table in multiple switches. The individual switches still have to be re-programmed.

Therefore, Johnson does not teach a call processing control system that updates call

(Response to 7-2-03 Office Action)

processing tables in multiple signaling processors as described in claim 108. The call processing control system in claim 108 advantageously provides centralized updating of the call processing tables in the multiple signaling processors. The call processing control system in claim 108 also advantageously provides a cheaper and faster way of updating the call processing tables, allows for more control over call routing, and provides some symmetry between the signaling processors.

(2) Claim 108 of the pending application describes "a plurality of signaling processors" and "a plurality of connection systems". The signaling processors process signaling based on a call processing table to select an identifier for routing a call and transmit a control message identifying the identifier. The connection systems receive control messages that include an identifier for routing a call, interwork user communications for the call, and transmit the user communications that include the identifier for routing the call. The Examiner failed to show where Ishida or Johnson teaches signaling processors in combination with connection systems as described in claim 108. The Examiner also failed to show where Ishida or Johnson teaches interworking the user communications or controlling the point of interworking.

The Examiner has suggested that the path selecting unit 103 and/or the connection judging means 100 teach or suggest the signaling processors and connections systems in claim 108 (see Office Action, page 2). The Applicants disagree. The operation of path selecting unit 103 is not discussed in Ishida. The operation of connection judging means 100 is described as follows in Ishida. The connection judging means 100 receives dial information, processes the dial information to judge whether a public-private connection is allowed (based on the regulations of the country of the receiving node), and connects the call to the public network if the public-private connection is allowed (see Ishida, column, 7, line 54 to column 8, line 9). Although the connection judging means 100 connects calls, the connection judging means 100 fails to "interwork" the calls. For instance, Ishida does not teach interworking user communications between TDM and ATM. The Examiner failed to show where Ishida or Johnson teaches interworking the calls. The Examiner failed to even mention the interworking function in the Office Action. Therefore, neither Ishida nor Johnson teach signaling processors and communication systems as claimed in claim 108.

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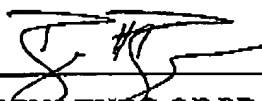
(Response to 7-2-03 Office Action)

Based on the above remarks, the Applicants submit that claim 108 is novel and non-obvious in view of Ishida, Johnson, and any combination therewith. Claim 118 is novel and non-obvious for similar reasons. The dependent claims are novel and non-obvious as being dependent on one of claims 108 or 118. There may be additional reasons in support of patentability, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of brevity.

Conclusion

Because Ishida, Johnson, and the combination thereof do not teach that which is claimed in independent claims 108 and 118, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 108-127. Any fees in addition to those submitted may be charged to deposit account 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10-2-03

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8   (Response to 7-2-03 Office Action)